

## A SHAKY COUNTRY.

## EARTHQUAKES AND VOLCANOES

**Three Shocks per Hour for Fourteen Days and Nights—Water Spouting Out of the Ground.**

Dispatches from Central America have lately informed the public of severe earthquakes which have visited that country. The steamer City of Panama, which arrived at San Francisco on the 26th of January, numbered among its passengers W. A. Gorrell of the Pacific Bridge Company, whose good fortune or misfortune it was to be in San Francisco during the late shaky period. Mr. Gorrell gave an interesting account of the phenomenon to a reporter of the Chronicle, which is best told in his own words: "On the evening of the 19th of December," he said, "a little after 8, we felt a slight trembling of the walls of our adobe house. The looking-glasses and pictures rattled slightly

against the walls, and ever and anon a creaking sound like the rattle of a far-off thunder storm would make itself heard. The shocks continued all night, increasing gradually hour by hour. The oldest inhabitants, whose memories retained the vivid impressions caused by similar experiences, began to look anxious and scared. The trembling, rocking motion of staid old terra firma continued all the next day and the next. On the third day it grew so violent that the inhabitants lay and

low, rich and poor, began to move out of the houses and pitch their tents out of town. We did not understand why the natives who

LIVED IN BAMBOO HUTS

should abandon these homes also, as we could not imagine how the strong-

est earthquake could uproot these  
doles. By this time the population had  
become panic-stricken. They ran  
bareheaded and barefooted about the  
streets, hardly knowing enough to  
keep out of the way of the falling bricks,  
but never neglecting to make all kinds  
of possible and impossible vows to their  
patron saints. Nobody thought of  
sleeping. The ground rocked and  
swayed fearfully, so that, on the fourth  
day, there was not a house where there

remained one square out of the walls. Everything that could break did break; things kept on tumbling down and falling to pieces, as if some unseen hand was ruthlessly tearing down everything that was not welded with bands of iron. The town was entirely deserted, except by those who were buried under the falling ruins. This kept on for over a week. On the 27th news was received that the earthquake had completely demolished two villa-

ges, containing, perhaps, a population of 1000 each. These villages were situated about nine miles from San Salvador, near the Lake of Ioango. Not a hut was left which might have sheltered a single family. In Guatemala about twenty houses were laid low, among them the large building called the Palace, in the centre of the park. After the 20th the shocks decreased in severity, although they still continued for a long while. The city of Guatemala lies between.

TWO EXTINCT VOLCANOS, and very near a lake, which is also an extinct crater. The old Indian traditions have named it the 'Valley of the

Hammock" because it is always swinging. Santa Anna, a city hardly twenty leagues from Salvador, has never been much damaged by earthquakes, while San Salvador is destroyed regularly every twenty years. The city has always been rebuilt in the same way, but this time Dr. Salvador, the President of the republic, is intent upon rebuilding it on the American plan. There are three distinct motions or kinds of shocks in the earthquakes which visit

In this region. The most common one is called the "temblor," and is the wave motion, similar to the one which in days hardly forgotten has visited California. The second kind is denominated "remolina," and its strokes or shocks are circular. The third and last is called "ratumlio;" it feels as if the ground received a terrible blow, right from the centre of the earth upward, and is the most destructive, and accordingly feared the most. Each manipu-

lation is accompanied by its own peculiar noise. W. A. Goodyear, a surveyor in the employ of the government, reported that the two villages mentioned above were destroyed by the 'remolina.' The earth cracked, and foaming water spurted out of the ground. The huts and houses tumbled all one way, as if they were mown down by an immense sickle. A peculiar effect of the shocks is that they drive everything out of the ground, even the light, lamp-

poises which support the thatched cottages of the natives. I visited three villages afterward, and found that the lava flow was everywhere of a very high degree with sulphur. The earthquake shocks seem to be confined to certain narrow limits. In Port Lauro, for instance, the lava was not strong enough to crack even the pier. This place is only 20 miles from the centre of the eruption. The steaming Yaiko, where the shocks were strongest, emitted huge volumes of smoke, steam and volleys of fire, and the lava was everywhere of more than two weeks, was three, or four days old. The lava was so abundant, there was a total of 93. No idea could be formed of the loss of life which

attended the phenomenon. The population was entirely beside itself; there was practically no assistance. Everybody was intent upon his own safety. That the loss must have been great is certain."

**A Brief Career.**

The publication of the Sunday edition of the Lancaster (Pa.) *Examiner* and *Express* has been discontinued. In making the announcement it declares

The experiment of a Sunday paper, which was inaugurated only four or five weeks ago, "was a pleasant diversion" to all in the office, "from the devil to the gravest of seniors," and frankly admits that it did not pay; hence its relinquishment.

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**Grant Will Accept Every Time.**  
St. Louis Republican.

The idea, so industriously kept in circulation, that Grant will not accept a

nomination for the presidency, unless it be unanimously tendered to him, carries no weight with it and influences no thinking man's judgment. It was started by the friends of the ex-President simply as a piece of political strategy to pull the wool over the eyes of the credulous and relieve Grant's candidacy as far as possible from the appearance of partisanship. The assertion may be safely made, and the action of the Harrisburg convention clear-

ly proves it, that the nomination is not only part of a programme, long since preconceived, but that it will be accepted, no matter how bitter the struggle or how narrow a margin it may be secured. It will only remain to nominate by a chairman, according to the usual formality, and the whole case is covered.











